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second part, which includes a digest of the several state corporation acts, has been considerably enlarged. But, since one would scarcely rely upon such a digest as a substitute for the statutes, and its chief value must therefore lie in its adaptability for use as an index to them, its extension seems rather to be regretted than approved. The book is concluded with a more or less useful assortment of forms and comparative tables showing the taxes levied by the several states upon domestic and foreign corporations. To one versed in corporation law the book should be serviceable for hasty reference; to the novice it should prove valuable in blazing the trail he must follow: but because of the great breadth of its subject as well as the methods of treatment adopted, it can be satisfactory to neither.

R. W. S., Jr.

IDEALS OF THE REPUBLIC. By JAMES SCHOULER. Boston: LITTLE, BROWN & Co. 1908. pp. xi, 304.

A sane, safe, uninspired little book is this from the hand of the veteran lawyer and historian. No one but a good citizen could have written it, but it will take more virtue than the average good citizen possesses to induce him to read it. For with all its excellences, it has the cardinal vice of dullness. The uninstructed reader cannot help wondering what the Johns Hopkins audiences can have been to which it was addressed. For it is made up, the preface tells us, of occasional lectures given by the author during his connection with the historical department of that institution of learning. Surely the students of that justly famed department did not have these discursive and uncritical discourses visited upon them. One can only surmise that the lectures were public (one can hardly say 'popular') in character, and found a miscellaneous and uncritical audience.

The task essayed by the author, "to trace out those fundamental ideas, social and political, to which America owes peculiarly her progress and prosperity and to consider the application of those ideas to present conditions", is one which might well tempt one who is both jurist and historian and it would not be fair to say that he has wholly failed in it. But he would probably be the first to admit that as a presentation of the ideals of the Republic it leaves something to be desired. For the most part, indeed, it is given over to a series of unrelated studies of our social and political conditions, with little or no reference to "fundamental ideas", and I fear it must be said that the political and social ideals set forth in the first four chapters, ("The Rights of Human Nature", "Types of Equality", "Civil Rights" and "Political Rights") are not those which are actually taking form among us or which the historian or lawyer would discover, but rather those which never existed but in the pious aspirations of the rhetorical extravagances of the fathers of the Republic. Indeed it is to the swelling eloquence of the Declaration of Independence that our author goes back for his political philosophy. So firmly persuaded is he of the potency of this "unique and original expression of basic human rights" that he attributes to it the act whereby we, "as people, were led to strike the manacles from a race once held subject sectionally because of complexion" (p. 10), a statement whose political wisdom is well matched by its style.

Perhaps the less said about style the better, but it would certainly be interesting to know what idea the following sentence is intended to embody: "The march of our democracy to power proves thus far irresistible, and the home government which now impends in the world's progress is that of an honest and intelligent public opinion guided by facts and arguments." (p. 84). This is not the place to quarrel with the author's statement (p. 98) that "the Mosaic account of this world's creation is not irreconcilable with the Darwinian theory", nor to inquire too curiously into the meaning of the enigmatical declaration that "the theory of the natural rights of men, who institute government by intelligent compact, is defective in that it does not take into account the sexual origin of the human race nor the primitive law of family". These are weird sayings, but there is, after all, so much good common sense in the book and such an essential rightness of view and soundness of sentiment, that its occasional aberrations of thought and speech may be forgiven. But it will not be read, save by the Indolent Reviewer.

G. W. K.

BOOKS RECEIVED:

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